

68. And whereas nothing can more effectually tend to the further improving and settling Our said Province, the Security of the Property of Our Subjects & the Advancement of Our Revenue of Quit Rents, than the establishing a regular & proper Method of Proceeding with respect to the passing of Grants of Land within the same; It is therefore Our Will & Pleasure that all and every Person and Persons who for the future shall apply to you for any Grant or Grants of Land, shall previous to their obtaining the same, make it appear before you in Council, that they are in a Condition to cultivate and improve the same by settling thereon, in proportion to the quantity of Acres, a sufficient Number of white persons or Negroes; and in case you shall upon a consideration of the Circumstances of the Person or Persons applying for such Grants, think it advisable to pass the same, in such Case you are to cause a Warrant to be drawn up directed to the Surveyor General or other proper Officer, empowering him or them to make a faithfull and exact Survey of the Lands so petitioned for, and to return the said Warrant within Six Months at furthest from the Date thereof, with a Plot or Description of the Lands so surveyed thereunto annexed; Provided that you do take care that before any such Warrant is issued as aforesaid, a Docquet thereof be entered in the Auditor's Office, and when the Warrant shall be returned by the said Surveyor or other proper Officer, the Grant shall be made out in due Form, and the Terms and Conditions required by these our Instructions be particularly and expressly mentioned in the respective Grants. And it is Our Will and Pleasure, that the said Grants shall be registered [within] Six Months from the date thereof in Our Secretary's Office there and a Docquet thereof be also entered in Our Auditor's Office there, or that in default thereof such Grants shall be void; Copies of all which Entries shall be returned regularly by the proper Officer, to Our Commissioners of Our Treasury, and to Our Commrs. for Trade and Plantations within Six Months from the date thereof.

69. And you are to oblige all and every Persons applying to you for Grants of Land, as aforesaid to give good and sufficient Security, that they will not enter upon or begin to cultivate his or their Lands, until a Patent for the same be finally compleated & enter'd as aforesaid.

70. And whereas great Inconveniencies have arisen in many of Our Colonies in America, from the granting of excessive Quantities of Land to particular Persons who have never cultivated or settled it, and have thereby prevented others more industrious from improving the same, in order therefore to prevent the like Inconveniencies for the future, you are to take especial Care that in all Grants to be made by you, by and with the Advice and Consent of Our Council to Persons applying for the same, the Quantity of Land be in proportion to their